DC

19
APR

ROBINSON
LEE
BENNETT

W.I.T.C.H.®

COVERT ACTION TEAMS

TM
©

'KAY, TEAM.

ARE YOU READY? YOU ALL GOT YOUR PARTY CLOTHES ON?

KUCHIK

GOOD.

THEN LET'S TANGO.

Story: ROBINSON
Layouts: LEE
Finishes: BENNETT

Colors: CHIODO
Lettering: STARKINGS AND COMICRAFT

WASHINGTON, D.C.

A PLACE OF POLITICS, TOURISTS, AND **STREET CRIME.**

AND IN ONE OF THE NICER, **SAFER** AREAS... **GOOD EATING.**

ZAGATS REPORTED THE FOOD **WONDERFUL.** "THE GLAZED DUCK, A **DELIGHT.**" AND THE WINE LIST IS NOTHING SHORT OF **SPECTACULAR.**

MILOS BISTRO

BUT **BENEATH** THE FIVE-STAR **VENEER**...THE AROMA OF SPICE, THE STARCHED NAPKINS AND TABLECLOTHS, THE FAINT SQUEAL OF A CORKSCREW'S TWIST, THE SAVAGE CLATTER OF POTS AND PLATES AND PANS...

...LIES A **SECRET.**

IT'S A **FRONT.** ALL OF IT.

FOR THE **CODA ASSASSINS'** D.C. BASE.

WHERE EVERY WAITRESS AND WORKER **HERE**...

...HAS **MORE** THAN A MENU **TUCKED** IN HER WAISTBAND.

I NEED YOUR **SERVICES.**

WHY WOULD A DAEMONITE OF YOUR... GUILE NEED THE SERVICES OF MERE WOMEN, HIGHTOWER?

PROTECTION.

I NEED YOU TO RUN INTERFERENCE.

THERE'S AN ARTIFACT I INTEND TO ACQUIRE HERE IN D.C.

I FEARED THAT PERHAPS LORD DEFILE AND HIS PACK MIGHT GET IN MY WAY.

BUT NOW, WITH YOU ON MY SIDE, WHAT COULD POSSIBLY GO WRO --

HIGHTOWER --

VNNA!

— YOU'VE GOT SOME *EXPLAINING* TO DO.

N'*THEN* SOME *HURTING.*

AND *MAYBE* SOME *DYING.*

MARLOWE? *WHAT?!*

IT'S THE *WILDC.A.T.S.*

IT'S *ZEALOT.*

SHE'S HERE.

OURS!

ATTACK FORMATION *EIGHT,* TEAM...

...HIT THEM *HARD!*

VNNNNNN

ADRIANNA, GET THE CUSTOMERS *OUT.*

AND ME, TOO. THEY'LL NEED AN *EXPLANATION.*

ZEALOT! LOOK *OUT!* *WATCH* YOUR *BACK!*

ZEALOT'S OURS TO --

SHRAKOW

YES? I'M YOURS TO *WHAT?* TO *KILL?*

YOU'RE WELCOME TO *TRY!*

SIZZLE

OH, YES! YOU'RE ALL WELCOME TO TRY.

AHH. CODA TRAINED? BY *BETTER* THAN YOU, *BITCH.*

HSSS

RETURN FIRE. QUICK!

BAMM BAMM BAMM

CHOKA CHOKA CHOKA CHOKA

KPOW

KPOW KPOW

CUT THEM *DOWN*... SHOOT THEM DOWN *BEFORE* THEY *GATHER* A SECOND ASSAULT.

OUFF

KPING KPING

CRASH

TINKLE TINKLE

SWEET JEEZ.

YOU *WANT* THEM CUT *DOWN*? OH, I'LL *CUT* THEM.

ONE IN *PARTICULAR*.

ZEALOT!

PHAM PHAM

PING

PHAM PHAM

AND WHICH OF MY SISTERS WOULD FIGHT ME?

YOU?

YOU THINK YOU KNOW ENOUGH TO MATCH MY STEEL?

YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ENOUGH...

SLICE

...TO KEEP YOUR HEAD!

HIGHTOWER IS NO FOOL.

HE KNOWS WHEN TO FIGHT...

...AND WHEN TO FLEE.

HIS GOAL IS TOO IMPORTANT... FOR DELAY...

...FOR RISK.

TOO IMPORTANT.

AND TOO NEAR.

VNNNN

OKAY, EVERYONE, **DON'T** PANIC. **NOBODY** PANIC!

WE HAD TO GET YOU **OUT** OF THERE.

THERE WAS **DANGER** AND...

...AND --

ADRIANNA, THIS IS **NEW YORK.** WHY'D YOU BRING US **THIS FAR?**

TOO **MANY** PEOPLE. TOO **GREAT** A STRAIN.

NO **CONTROL...**

...OVER --

ADRIANNA!

SIT **HERE.** REST. **YEAH,** I GUESS THIS **WAS** A **LOT** OF PEOPLE TO **ZAP AWAY.**

REST AND --

JACOB, I...

IIAAHHH...

...OHH.

THIS.

THINGS TO COME.

IT'S A SNAPDRAGON DREAM, BLURRED IN ITS CLARITY.

CRYSTAL IN ITS VAGARY.

THE FLECKS OF HAZE MAKE IMAGES DAPPLE AND SHINE AND FLICKER AND FADE AND SHINE ANEW.

ADRIANNA SEES, BUT DOESN'T KNOW... DOESN'T RECOGNIZE MANY OF THOSE WHO PIROUETTE BEFORE THE FOOTLIGHTS OF HER SUBCONSCIOUS.

SHE DOESN'T KNOW, AND YET SHE KNOWS...

...THAT THIS...

...IS THE BEGINNING OF BAD TIMES.

ADRIANNA?

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

NEVER SEEN YOU GO ***OUT*** LIKE THAT. YOUR SCREAM WAS --

A ***VISION,*** JACOB.

WE ***HAVE*** TO GET ***BACK*** TO THE WILDC.A.T.S. IT'S BEGINNING, ***EVEN*** AS WE SPEAK, IT'S ***BEGINNING.***

WHAT?!

BUT WEAK. TOO ***WEAK*** TO TRANSPORT BACK. ***WHATEVER*** IS ***HAPPENING*** THERE, THE 'CATS WILL ***HAVE*** TO FACE ***ALONE.***

YET IT'S ***DESPERATE*** WE RETURN. IT'S ***TERRIBLE...***

... WHAT'S ***COMING.***

A DIRE FUTURE.

KRASH

YYAARRHH

TO THE CELLAR, SISTERS.

WE'RE LOSING, BUT WE MAY YET WIN!

BADDA BADDA BADDA

CHINK CHUK CHINK

ARM THE CHARGE.

YEAH. WHATEVER HE SAID!

POKKA POKKA POKKA

CHARGE? WIN?

CODA CREDO. IN DEFEAT, TAKE YOUR ENEMIES WITH YOU.

THERE MUST BE A BOMB DOWN THERE.

WE HAVE TO STOP THEM!

CRASH

THE CELLAR.

FULL OF WINE AND COMPUTER HARDWARE AND **WEAPONRY** AND HATRED AND A SMALL BUT **IMPRESSIVE** STOCK OF **FINE** VINTAGE PORT...

...AND ENOUGH EXPLOSIVES TO LEVEL THE **BUILDING.**

PERHAPS THE **WHOLE** BLOCK.

GGRRR

EEAHHH

AT THE **FAR** END OF THE **ROOM!** THE ONE IN **BLUE!** **SHE'S** THE **ONE!**

SANCTUM **BREACHED!**

HOLD THEM, **SISTERS!** STOP THEM FROM **REACHING--**

POKKA POKKA POKKA POKKA

ZOOOOOOM

KKRAKLE

PAMM

THWAKK

KRUNK

GHHAAA

YOU SHALL NOT PASS!

DEATH SHALL BE OUR FATES.

ALL OF --

YOU, INDEED.

NOT ALL.

POKKA POKKA POKKA

BADDA BADDA BADDA

SISTER MONRO. OUR D.C. BASE IS UNCOVERED.

MARLOWE'S CREW.

CALLING TO CONFIRM IMPLEMENTATION OF OMEGA OPTION.

STATUS?

PUSH FORWARD, VOODOO. GOTTA REACH THEIR LEADER 'FORE SHE --

CHOP

YES, COLE! ONWARD!

LOWER SANCTUM UNDER ASSAULT.

RISK TO FILES AND DATA?

IMMINENT.

THEN OMEGA OPTION IS THE ONLY WAY.

FAREWELL, SISTER. I SALUTE YOU IN DEATH.

GET TO --

HOLD --

HOLD!

BLOCK --

STOP HER F --

GRAB H --

KEEP THEM AT BAY, MY SISTERS!

FOR A MOMENT LONG --

BOOM
BLAM
BOOM

NNNN...

...NNNAARHH!

WHEW. CLOSE. SHAVE AND A HALF.

HEAD COUNT?

FOUR OF US HERE.

SO WHAT ABOUT PRIS AND SPAR --

KAKKL

OH. NEVER MIND.

WILDC.A.T.S... ...DISABLE YOUR WEAPONRY AND SURRENDER!

NOW!...

...OR FACE THE WRATH OF STORMWATCH

SAVANT IN

"Wing and a Prayer"

By

James Robinson

Terry Dodson

& Gary Martin

FROM ONE CLIFF-HANGER TO ANOTHER SHE GOES. OH BOY, OH BOY.

WHEN LAST WE SAW SAVANT AND HER AVIATRIX PAL, MABEL BLIGH, THEY WERE ESCAPING THE ISLAND OF BIG OL' BAD KING LOOOOTH. THE SUN WAS SETTING. ALL WAS WELL. AND THEN --

-- A GREMLIN APPEARED ON THE WING! UH-OH!

NOW READ ON...

HELLO. BUT MY, YOU ARE A PRETTY PAIR OF MISSES, AREN'T YOU JUST?

GET OFF THE WING! GET OFF! SCRAM! SCAT!

WE HAVEN'T BEEN INTRODUCED, BY THE WAY, HAVE WE? I DON'T THINK SO, NO.

MY NAME IS CLEMENT.

AND I AM A GREMLIN.

I SAID *GO AWAY!* YOU'LL *WRECK* THE *PLANE.* WE'LL *CRASH!*

MY *RAISON D'ETRE,* AFTER ALL. WE GREMLINS *DO* AS WE *DO,* AS WE *MUST.* TRALALA AND *ALL* THAT.

AND ALL THAT? AND *ALL THAT?*

DO *I* HAVE TO *THROW* YOU OFF?

OH, ARE *YOU* COMING OUT HERE, *TOO?* BIT OF A BREEZE. I'D PUT ON A *HEAD SCARF* IF *I* WERE YOU.

PERHAPS THE *DAMAGE* I AM DOING IS SOMEHOW *FAILING* TO *REVEAL* THIS TO YOU...

...BUT *WRECKING* THE *PLANE* IS MY EACH AND EVERY *INTENTION.*

WHEN I *GET* TO *YOU,* I'LL --

HELP ME? OH, WOULD YOU? WONDERFUL!

I SAY, WOULD YOU BE A DEAR AND HELP ME TEAR THIS WING SECTION APART?

THERE'S A LUV.

COME HERE, YOU --

WHOOOAAA!

MABEL! HELP!

HANG ON!

... WE'LL ***SHARE.***

WHAT A SMILE. A WINNING SMILE. AND ***SUCH*** TEETH. I BET YOU FLOSS. TWICE A DAY?

HOW ***COULD*** I ***EVER*** REFUSE A ***REQUEST*** FROM A ***BEAUTY*** LIKE YOU?

HAPPY? ***THIS*** WILL MAKE ME ***HAPPY.*** COME ***HERE,*** YOU --

WE'LL ***BOTH*** BE HAPPY ***THEN.***

I ***KNOW.*** YOU ***KEEP*** THE WING SECTION. I'LL JUST ***REMOVE*** IT FROM THE PLANE ***FIRST.***

THE ***SECTION*** OF ***WING*** YOU'RE HOLDING ONTO --

-- ***WOULD*** YOU BE SO ***KIND*** AS TO ***LET GO*** OF IT? I HAVE ***GREAT NEED*** OF IT MYSELF.

WELL, IT ***LOOKS*** LIKE WE ***BOTH*** NEED IT, ***THEN,*** DOESN'T IT? WHAT ABOUT ***YOU*** PULLING ME ***UP,*** AND THEN...

SAV! I'M COMING! I'M COMIINNNGG!

OH, MY, IT DOES APPEAR THAT GRAVITY IS SUDDENLY OUR ENEMY.

NO, I'M YOUR ENEMY!

POW

HOW RUDE. HOW TERRIBLY, TERRIBLY.

I'VE NEVER HIT A WOMAN. NOT BEFORE, NOT EVER.

BUT NEEDS MUCH AS THE DEVIL DRIVES.

AS MY SAINTED AUNT PRUDENCE WOULD SAY.

A WONDERFUL WOMAN. SANK THREE BATTLESHIPS AND A U-BOAT IN ONE WEEKEND.

SAV! I SEE YOU, SAV, HON! I SEE YOU!

I *MUST* COMPLIMENT YOU ON YOUR *PUNCHES*, BY THE WAY.

FOR *ONE* LIKE *YOU* WITH SUCH A *PETITE* FRAME...

...THE *BLOWS* YOU ARE DELIVERING TO MY *FACE* AND NECK SMART *AWFULLY*.

AND THE *KNEE* YOU DELIVERED TO MY *TENDER SPOT* HAD A CERTAIN *RUGGED* IMPACT *ALL* ITS OWN, TOO, FOR *THAT* MATTER.

POW

BAM

WHAM

BOOM

PLEASE.

PLEASE.

PLEASE.

WHAP

WHAP

WHAP

WILL YOU *SHUT UP!*

WHOMP

I'M *COMING*, SAV. I'M --

OH, IT *APPEARS* WE MUST *PART*. TOODLEOO. *PERHAPS* WE'LL MEET *AGAIN*. DO YOU PLAY *CRIBBAGE*, BY ANY *CHANCE*?

I DO SO *LOVE* AN EXCITING *GAME* OF CRIBBAGE.

GOT YOU!!

SAV. JEEZ, GIRL, I'M SO GLAD I --

NO, MABE. HUSH A WHILE, WILL YOU?

I'D LIKE A MOMENT'S SILENCE.

LATER...

EAST AND WEST OF EVERYWHERE AND NOWHERE --

YEAH, WE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TO GET BACK.

BEEN GONE FOR A TIME, THE PAIR OF YOU. YOUR MAIL SURE PILED UP.

WHAT YOU GOT, MABEL?

THREE MONTHS WORTH OF PLAYGIRL. A LETTER FROM MOM. AND AN INVITATION FROM THE EASTERN PRESS TO ORDER THE LEATHER-BOUND COMPLETE HAROLD ROBBINS.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

BILL. BILL. BILL. BILL. AND...

...IT'S A LETTER FROM CHARLES RUSSELL. HE'S HAVING AN EXHIBITION. HE FOUND SOME ARTIFACTS FOR IT, INCLUDING ANCIENT --

-- WAIT. THERE'S A PHOTO INCLUDED.

IT'S AN ANCIENT --

OH, MY. OH, MY! IT'S THE KEY! THE KEY!

I GOTTA GET BACK TO D.C. I GOTTA STOP RUSSELL...

...BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

NO TIDY ENDINGS. NEVER. NOT FOR HER.

WildC.A.T.s®
Covert-Action-Teams
#19

"HARD HUNT"

STORY: James Robinson

LAYOUTS: Jim Lee

FINISHES: Richard Bennett

Savant in "Wing and a Prayer"

STORY: James Robinson

PENCILS: Terry Dodson

INKS: Gary Martin

COLORS: Joe Chiodo

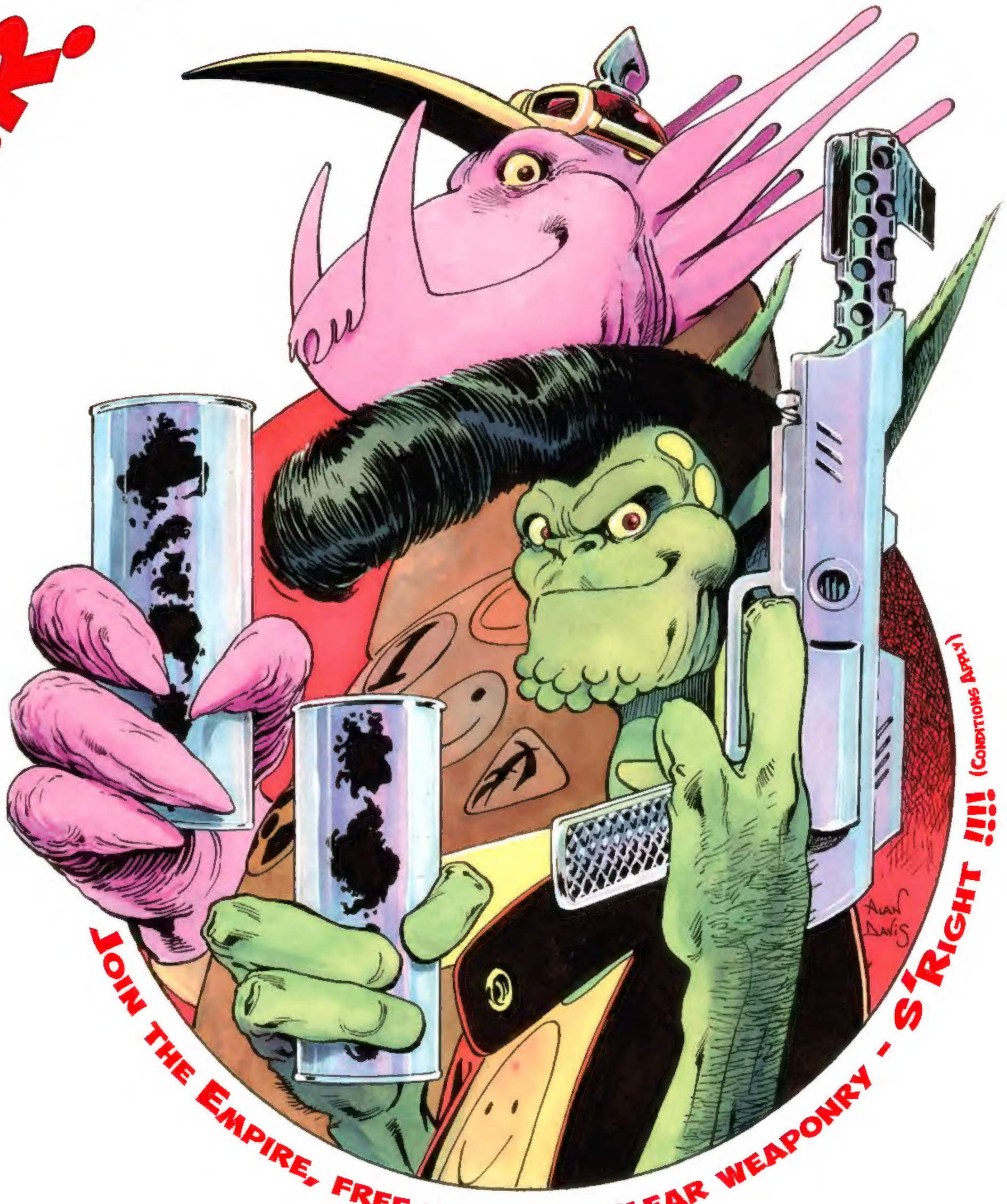
COLOR ASSIST: Martin Jimenez

WildC.A.T.s created by Jim Lee and Brandon Choi

Cover by Travis Charest and Troy Hubbs

Additional art by Travis Charest

D.R. & QUINCH



JOIN THE EMPIRE, FREE THERMONUCLEAR WEAPONRY - S'RIGHT !!!! (CONDITIONS APPLY)

K6 NW